

## FOUND CITY NOT SO POOR

### CASSIDY COMMITTEE SPLIT ON INCREASING DEBT LIMIT.

Majority Against It—Committee Oppose Out a Margin of \$150,000,000 on Jan. 1 and Report Says \$15,000,000 a Year Will Do for Subways Buildings.

The Legislative committee headed by Senator Owen Cassidy which has been investigating the financial condition of the city submitted its report to the Legislature last night. The committee concludes that the city still had a debt incurring margin of \$131,000,000 on January 1. This is much more than even the Comptroller has been able to count up, and William M. Irvine, chairman of the Charter Revision Commission, has in fact declared that the city has already overdrawn its credit. As the Comptroller figured it out the city had a borrowing power left at the beginning of the year of about \$48,000,000.

The Cassidy committee reaches its conclusion by deciding that liabilities undertaken by the city should not be charged as an indebtedness until contracts for the work have actually been completed. The report says that the "unpaid" indebtedness should be defined as the amount of money advanced to the city by contractors and the amount of money advanced to the city by contractors and the amount of money advanced to the city by contractors.

The committee further reports that such a construction of the word "indebtedness" will furnish a definite limitation of the borrowing capacity of the city and will make it easy for the Board of Estimate to determine with certainty the amount of contracts which may be entered into in any given period. The committee further reports that such a construction of the word "indebtedness" will furnish a definite limitation of the borrowing capacity of the city and will make it easy for the Board of Estimate to determine with certainty the amount of contracts which may be entered into in any given period.

The committee finds that the present contract liabilities and liabilities of the city are approximately \$57,000,000 and that these liabilities will not fully accrue for a period of three to five years; that the city bonds are being amortized at a rate of \$10,000,000 a year, and that the immediate necessities for subway extension can be cared for by the expenditure of \$15,000,000 a year.

The majority of the committee is adverse to the proposed constitutional amendment increasing the debt limit. It says that by the practice of reasonable economies, always remembering that expenditures for city improvements should bear some relation to the business cost upon the taxpayer, a change in the present constitutional limitation will be unnecessary, and that the proposed amendment to the Constitution increasing by indirectness the debt limit of the city would "in effect render the constitutional inhibition upon the borrowing capacity of the city as impotent as a rope of sand to restrain the waves of the sea."

The report points out general abuses which obtain in the various departments of the city government and says that the city should be required by law to establish a bureau of uniform accounting and a bureau of real estate. It also recommends that the Constitution should be amended so as to provide improved methods for condemnation of real property and reports in favor of a modification of the present borough system without destroying borough autonomy in strictly local matters. The committee also calls attention to the manner in which the work on the Catskill aqueduct has been carried on and suggests that it is a subject toward which the public eye should be directed.

The effect of the Cassidy report is to support the contention that while the city may authorize appropriations for public improvements the cost of those improvements does not become a charge against the city until the bonds have been issued and the contract for the work has been awarded and certified to by the Comptroller. Those who oppose this view assert that the public work is authorized the estimated cost of it should at once be entered on the debit side of the city's ledger. It is agreed by Mayor McClellan, Mr. Irvine and others who have been studying the question for a year or more that the matter is one that the courts will ultimately have to pass upon and the matter is now before the courts.

ALBANY, March 1.—The recommendation against the passage again this year of the proposed constitutional amendment excluding from the computation of the debt limit bonds to be used for the construction of docks and subways was not unexpected. This proposed amendment passed the last Legislature, and it should be passed at this session it would be submitted to a vote of the people next fall. There is to be a hearing on the proposed amendment in committee on March 17, in the joint committee last year Senator Cassidy (Rep., Schuylers) and Assemblymen Merritt (Rep., St. Lawrence), Bennett (Rep., Manhattan), Palmer and Oliver (Dems.) voted against the passage of the amendment by the present Legislature, while Senators McCarran (Dem., Brooklyn) and Saxe (Rep., Manhattan) and Assemblyman Lee (Rep., Brooklyn) dissented and filed supplemental statements in favor of the passage of the amendment by the Legislature again this year. Messrs. Saxe, Cassidy and Palmer are not members of this Legislature.

The report of the joint committee was laid on the table in each house without comment to be printed. In his dissenting memorandum Senator Saxe says that congestion which promotes crime and thereby increases government expenditure ought to be broken up by rapid transit facilities which would make it no longer so necessary for a man to live near his job. Assemblyman Lee says that one of the arguments which is made against the amendment is that it would limit the amount of the debt limit before the

## THREE BRIDES FROM HOLLAND

### EYES TRUQUE, CHEEKS ROSES, ADEPT AT GYMNASTICS AND PIANO.

Fall Into the Arms of Three Americans When the Nooroom Gangplank Is Down—All the Ship Sympathizers Proxy Marriages, With Renewals Here.

Three city bred girls from Holland, equally at home before the oven or before the piano, according to their enthusiastic young men, arrived yesterday by the Holland-America steamship Nooroom from Rotterdam. They came down the gangplank into the arms of three young American citizens, one a native and the others Hollanders by birth but Americans by choice. The three girls, none looking more than 20 and all with peachblow complexions, smiling blue eyes and an accent when they spoke English that made all the undetached young Americans in the first cabin wish they were going to be the bridegrooms, brought with them everything necessary for housekeeping. Also each had an upright piano made in Amsterdam that she had played for her particular beau in Holland.

You might never suspect from their names that they were as bewitching as the passengers declared them to be, not to mention the young men that met them at the pier. They are, but soon will not be, Miss W. A. R. van Weeren, Miss R. E. ter Haar Romeny and Miss L. van Gulden. When they boarded the ship at Amsterdam they were comparative strangers; but all came of good old Dutch families, and they soon became acquainted and had a triplicate surprise when they discovered that all were going to be married here just after landing and that their sweethearts would be waiting for them at the pier.

The ship soon discovered it too and there were hopes in some bosoms that some of the bridegrooms-elect might fail to appear. The Nooroom had a pleasant trip, although ships that came over the same course just ahead of her reported very heavy weather. Pursuer van Wyk, who delves in the classics, said that Poseidon had stilled the seas especially for the occasion, as he never had heard, even in the days when the Greek ship news reporters were on the job at the Piræus, of three sweethearts arriving in one trimmer with lovers waiting on the pier. So the three young women had lots of chances to sing together at the piano, old Dutch love songs at present on tap in Amsterdam, Rotterdam or any other nice Dutch city.

The young men on the pier were somewhat reluctant to impart information about the young women, who were dressed just like American girls whose parents are prosperous, but they were willing to say that it was true that all were going to get married. Otto G. Kan, who is assistant superintendent of the Holland Sugar Company of Holland, Mich., a fine Dutch settlement, which he says is now pretty thoroughly Americanized, will marry Miss ter Haar Romeny, as she herself sweetly admitted to the ship news men. The wedding will be tomorrow in the Middle Collegiate Church, in Second avenue, and the Rev. Mr. Venema of Passaic, a friend of the bridegroom, will tie the knot. He may also simultaneously make Miss W. A. R. van Weeren, Mrs. Carl Grick and Miss L. van Gulden, Mrs. Adrian Young, Mr. Grick and Mr. Young are in business in Tallahassee, Fla. The three young men were introduced by the three young women on the Holland-America pier and had a joyous time swapping sentiments and telling how superior the Holland type of sweetheart that can cook and sing and play, is to all other types. The young men had not decided, or rather the young women had not permitted them to decide, last night whether or not there would be a triple wedding in the Middle Collegiate Church.

It was said by the pursuer that two of the young women—Miss R. E. ter Haar Romeny said she was not one—had been married by proxy before leaving Rotterdam. They had what the pursuer called a "pact from the Netherlands" to do it. This meant that from the viewpoint of Dutch etiquette toward ship just the same as if they had been really married to the men that are to become their husbands according to American law.

It took the six happy young folks nearly three hours to get all their housekeeping things collected and have the pianos properly taken care of by men who understand the art of moving them. Then they looked a little tired, but not a bit worried. It was said that the plan of the young men from Florida was to get married right away and take a Clyde liner for Jacksonville.

Other passengers by the Nooroom were J. Rypperda Wiersma and J. G. Reuchlin, directors of the Holland-America Line; the Count and Countess G. Marotti, J. W. Bagdale, American Consul at St. Petersburg; E. C. Newfield, Belgian Vice-Consul at San Francisco, and Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Rowe. Mr. Wiersma was formerly general manager of the line at this port, and he was accompanied by an American born daughter and son who are subjects of the Queen of Holland.

Maurelania Breaks More Records. The Cunarder Maurelania, according to wireless despatches received yesterday by Vernon H. Brown, will probably break her own record to Queenstown, made on her previous eastward trip. She was within 358 miles of her destination at 7 o'clock last night, and it was expected that if she maintained her average of 25.21 knots she would finish her race in 4 days and 19 hours, an hour and a half ahead of her own best eastward stunt. She covered on the nautical day of twenty-three hours ending at noon on Saturday 607 miles, which is another record for her, and means an average hourly speed of 26.30 knots. The westerly gale helped her a little.

Repairs to the Mohawk Will Not Take Long. The revenue cutter Mohawk, which smashed her forefoot on Hog's Back south of Ward's Island, will probably be ready to go into commission again in about three weeks. An estimate of the cost of her repairs made yesterday put it at about \$11,000.

Two More Battleships Come In. The battleships Missouri and Ohio of the fleet of world circlers arrived yesterday from Newport News and dropped anchor off Tompkinsville. The Ohio will go to the Brooklyn navy yard and be laid up for a while. The Missouri will go to the Boston navy yard. Both ships will dispose of their ammunition before leaving.

HAAS'S RESTAURANT, Park Row Bldg., 100 N. 2d St., New York. Tel. 1000. Adm.

## FLED WITH MOTHER'S JEWELS.

### Boy and Two Companions Caught at the Beginning of Their Good Time.

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J., March 1.—An attempt by Westmore Meehan, son of John T. Meehan, the New York restaurant man, to sell his mother's diamond sunburst brooch for \$50 on the street here to-day resulted in the arrest of the boy and Charles Benz and John O'Donnell, his young companions, who had come to the shore to have a time on the proceeds of a looting of Mrs. Meehan's jewel box.

Despite the pleas of the boys, none of whom is over 17, they were locked up in a cell at police headquarters after the jewels which they had stolen had been recovered. These jewels are said to be worth \$5,000. Mr. and Mrs. Meehan are here to-night trying to have the charges quashed. They want to take their boy back to New York.

According to the story which the police got from the lads they decided to have a seashore trip with fine trimmings. To get funds they took the jewels of Mrs. Meehan.

The Atlantic City police having been notified of the loss and the suspicion that the Meehan boy had been among the thieves were on the lookout for the three this morning when they were notified that a handsome diamond brooch at a ridiculously low price. Detective Barnhart traced the three boys to a big beach front hotel, where they were arrested. Search of their rooms resulted in finding practically all of the stolen jewels and the boys admitted that they had taken them for the trip.

Mr. and Mrs. Meehan came here as soon as they were informed of their son's arrest and pleaded with Captain of Detectives Whalen to-night to release him and his companions and stop proceedings that might land them in jail for their escapades.

The lads are badly scared over the prospect of being taken back to New York under guard to stand trial for the theft, and it is likely that the police here will consent to free them on condition of their pledge to be good.

On February 25 the New York police, having been notified of the disappearance of the Meehan jewels, the Meehan boy and the two others, Benz and O'Donnell, sent messages to several cities in the East asking for the detention of the boys whose descriptions were given. The Meehans live at 1840 Grand Boulevard Concourse, in The Bronx. For many years Mr. Meehan was connected with Dolan's restaurant at 33 Park Row.

DR. CRUM RESIGNS. Charleston's Negro Collector Will Quit His Office on Thursday. CHARLESTON, S. C., March 1.—Dr. W. D. Crum, the negro Collector of Customs for the port of Charleston, by sending to President Roosevelt a letter containing his resignation to become effective at noon on March 4 has relieved Mr. Taft of one embarrassing situation. After thanking the President for the appointment, Dr. Crum says:

Since assuming the duties of this position I have striven diligently to justify the confidence imposed in me. During all these years so far as I know not a single charge has been brought against my moral character or a single adverse criticism made in regard to the performance of my official duties.

He goes on to say that absolute harmony has prevailed among the employees of both races in his office, and gives statistics showing the increase in the business of the office. Of this he says: "I do not claim credit for this increase in business. Much of it would have been brought about through the natural growth of the port, but I cite these facts to show that I have striven in every way possible to increase the usefulness of the office and the welfare of the port."

Before closing I feel that I should add that I have been treated with kindness and courtesy by all those who have had official business with the office, and have not had any unpleasant contact with any one in the city.

"PAUPER" LEFT \$300,000. Nurse Finds \$20,000 in Bills in Coat of Dead Charity Patient. DANVILLE, Ill., March 1.—A nurse at St. Elizabeth's Hospital here felt something like paper in the lining of the shabby coat of Daniel Sheridan, a coal miner, who died supposedly a pauper in that institution a few days ago.

Investigation resulted in the discovery of more than \$20,000 in bills in the coat and vest lining, and deeds for an \$80 acre farm near Cisna Park, Ill., and a 200 acre farm near Worthington, Ind. His estate is valued at \$300,000.

His brother Robert died a few years ago in central Illinois leaving \$200,000. Robert Lynch, a wealthy cousin, who came here to attend the supposed pauper's funeral, says Sheridan left home twenty years ago because of an unhappy love affair and kept his whereabouts secret. Sheridan was buried here to-day. He was a bachelor and worked here eighteen years.

## FORGETFUL MAN WEDS TWICE

### MR. AUCHTERLONIE OF HEMPSTEAD IS IN A FIX

If It Is True, as Seems to Be, That at the Age of 15 He Took a Wife in Jersey or He Married Last February 11—Can't Remember the First Marriage.

HEMPSTEAD, L. I., March 1.—The town clerk of Hempstead gave C. J. Auchterlonie an awful shock to-day. He showed him a letter which he had received from Philadelphia and in it Mr. Auchterlonie read that he, Auchterlonie, was married on August 2, 1893, to Miss Hester Ramsey in Camden, N. J. Auchterlonie said it was news to him.

It was rather disturbing news to another person too—the wife which Auchterlonie took on February 11. She was Caroline Marsh, and is the daughter of Eugene Marsh of Hempstead. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. F. M. Kerr of the Hempstead Presbyterian Church. The return was filed with the town clerk, H. Luther Weeks, in the regular course. The return which was made on the previous marriage was personal, not official; but it looks as if it were correct.

Auchterlonie is a chemist, works for G. S. Yeager and has an excellent reputation here. If he married Miss Ramsey he doesn't remember anything about it, he says. He is not quite sure that he remembers Miss Ramsey at all. He explains:

"I have been joked a good deal by my family and others about being a married man, but I have never had any proof of it. I was in an asylum for weeknights children when I was 17 and can dimly remember having a woman guide me around the grounds and take me into the city at different times. Her name was Miss Ramsey, but if I ever became her husband I don't know the slightest thing about it."

Asked if he did not think to look the matter up carefully before he married Miss Marsh he said that he realized now that he should have done so inasmuch as he had received a letter from a Philadelphia lawyer saying that his first wife had left him a notice of his second marriage in the papers and that since then had been no divorce if he didn't have his second marriage annulled at once he would be prosecuted for bigamy.

"I was partly driven to getting married," said Mr. Auchterlonie, "by my mother who came up here in Hempstead when she knew I was going with Miss Marsh and told a number of stories about my former marriage, and she managed to get me in such a state of nervousness that I hardly knew what I was doing. I didn't believe what had been said about my being a married man, and being all unstrung, I finally said that I would get married and then they could show me if I was married or not."

Mr. Auchterlonie is about 30 years old and is a fine looking, well educated man. After leaving the asylum his mind continued to mend, he studied hard and became a chemist. He has lived here a little more than a year.

Miss Marsh comes of an old Long Island family and is one of the leaders in the Baptist church here. Her husband says that she has been thoroughly informed of his position in the matter of the former Miss Ramsey—that is, she knows as much about it as he does.

Mr. Auchterlonie has not taken any steps in the matter as yet, but will see a lawyer at once, he says, and try to straighten out the matrimonial tangle.

The way Town Clerk Weeks got mixed up in the matter is this: A few days ago he received a letter from C. W. Coles of 114 Market street, Philadelphia, asking for a certified copy of the record of the marriage of Auchterlonie to Miss Marsh. Weeks sent it and to-day he received a second letter from Mr. Coles, thanking him and saying that at the time of writing he had before him the certified copy and also the certificate of marriage of the same Auchterlonie to Miss Ramsey. Mr. Coles didn't say what his connection with the case was.

MUNICIPAL FERRIES OR NONE. Sinking Fund Inclined to Leave the East River Alone at Present. At another hearing yesterday by the Sinking Fund Commission Mayor McClellan and the other members of the commission did not attempt to hide their opinion that the only solution of the East River ferry problem will be putting municipal ferries into service. Because of the state of the city's finances the Mayor and his colleagues on the commission are opposed to taking this course except as a last resort, and although a large delegation of business men from Brooklyn urged the board to act at once it was decided to hold further hearings.

## VALUABLE LONDON LAW LIBRARY LOST

### Some of Its Greatest Treasures.

SPECIAL CABLE DESPATCH TO THE SUN. LONDON, March 1.—The library of Lincoln's Inn, which has been used for 500 years by judges and barristers for the purposes of research, has been despoiled of some dozen of its greatest treasures, dating from the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries.

The loss has only just been discovered, but it is evident that some unknown thief has been operating in the library for a year past.

YALE TO HONOR TAFT. Parade to Mark Inauguration of Her First Son Elected to the Presidency. NEW HAVEN, March 1.—Yale University, it was announced to-night, has arranged for a Yale parade in this city at 4 P. M. on March 4 to show her appreciation of William Howard Taft, 79, her first son elected to the Presidency of the United States.

The parade will be participated in by all graduates here and by the present undergraduate body. A short route is planned through the business part of New Haven which will end on the campus. There are speeches expected by judges and barristers for the purpose of research, has been despoiled of some dozen of its greatest treasures, dating from the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries.

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## SAN FRANCISCO SHORTAGES.

### Eighty Thousand Dollars Said to Be Missing from Public Funds.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 1.—Shortages of \$80,000 have been discovered in municipal funds, but the public has not thus far got any clear account of the matter. One deficit of \$13,000 is said to be in the absent heirs' special tax retention fund. This has been kept secret so that detectives might get clues to the guilty persons, but they haven't found any.

TO MAKE ARKANSAS DRY TOO. House Passes Prohibition Measure—The Senate's Action in Doubt. LITTLE ROCK, Ark., March 1.—The Arkansas House this afternoon by a vote of 2 to 1 passed a bill prohibiting the sale or giving away of liquors of any kind in this State after July 1, 1909.

The bill passed after a spirited contest of three days in which ninety-three speeches were made. An effort to substitute a bill providing for the submission of the question to the voters of the State next summer failed by six votes. The fate of the bill in the Senate is a matter of considerable doubt. Gov. Doney says he will sign the measure if passed.

TREASURY DEFICIT GROWS. It Increased \$6,567,537 in February and on March 1 Stood at \$86,361,990. WASHINGTON, March 1.—The deficit in the United States Treasury was increased during February by \$6,567,537 and the deficit for the current fiscal year at the close of the month stood at \$86,361,990. The excess of expenditures over receipts in February was not as large as it was in January, for during protracted periods earlier in the fiscal year this excess amounted to nearly \$500,000 a day.

There is every prospect that there will be a large deficit during the final quarter begun to-day, and it is not unlikely that the disbursements of the Government for the whole fiscal year will exceed the current receipts by at least \$10,000,000.

ANOTHER "NOISELESS" GUN. This One Makes Black Powder Smokeless, Too, Inventor Says. NORTHFIELD, Vt., March 1.—A type of barrel which is said to kill nine-tenths of the noise of a gun, to eliminate the recoil and to make black powder practically smokeless has been publicly demonstrated before members of the Northfield Gun Club the past week.

The inventor, Joseph C. Coulombe, was graduated from Norwich University in 1905 and since then has spent most of his time in perfecting this device. He explains that it differs from the Maxim invention in that the latter is an attachment to be placed on the end of the gun barrel, while his device is a part of the gun, consisting of a thin steel casing extending the full length of the barrel.

In the demonstrations here a 6 millimeter United States Navy rifle which could be heard by men stationed three miles distant had its noise so deadened by the Coulombe invention that it could be heard only 250 yards away.

WON'T PAY FOR THE FLORIDA. Mosie, the Buyer, Cited to Court to Show Cause Why Not. There was a hitch yesterday in the disposal of the steamship Florida, which sank the Republic and which was sold at public auction last week, when M. A. Mosie of Philadelphia, the purchaser, refused to accept the bill of sale offered to him by United States Commissioner Alexander, the trustee.

Commissioner Alexander said that Mosie had paid down only \$16,000 on the purchase price of \$250,000. No one would say yesterday what he prompted Mosie to refuse to accept the bill of sale, but Judge Holt signed an order citing Mosie to appear in court to-day and show cause why he should not be held to the terms of the sale.

CALL FOR HUSKY FIREMEN. Croker Invites Applications from Unions Likely to Have Strong Men. Copies of a letter received from Edward F. Croker, chief of the Fire Department, inviting applications from workingmen to become firemen were sent out yesterday by Roswell D. Tompkins, secretary of the Greater New York Building Trades Council, with the request that the unions act on them and report to him at as early a date as possible. The same letter has been sent by Chief Croker to the organizations of truck drivers.

The sending broadcast of these invitations to organizations most likely to have husky men among their ranks is believed to have been inspired by the fact that strong men are needed to handle high pressure lines.

FORESTS BURNING A MONTH. Host of Men Fail to Check Devastation on Monte Alto, Mexico. MEXICO CITY, March 1.—The forest fire which started upon Monte Alto in the State of Oaxaca nearly a month ago is still burning fiercely. It has destroyed vast tracts of valuable timber and is apparently beyond control of the large force of men who have been trying to extinguish it.

## TAFT READY TO TAKE OATH

### CABINET MADE UP AND INAUGURAL ADDRESS COMPLETED.

Was in Happy Mood and Had a Jolly Word for Every One—Amused Over Roosevelt's Suggestion That a Buncombe Club Would Succeed the Annapolis Club.

WASHINGTON, March 1.—With his Cabinet all made up, his inaugural address ready for delivery and the arrangements for Thursday's big event completed, William H. Taft admitted to-day that he was very happy. He looked and acted the part. His friends haven't seen him in a happier mood in many a day. He had a jolly word for every one of the long string of visitors who called at the Boardman house, and the Taft laugh was working overtime. This spirit seemed to be infectious. Everybody who dropped in on the President-elect came away smiling. Even the policemen out in front of the house whistled and occasionally did a little jig.

Mr. Taft started the day with a talk with Senator Knox, who is to be his Secretary of State. Later he saw Charles Nagel of St. Louis, the next Secretary of Commerce and Labor, and George W. Wickersham of New York, the next Attorney-General. Both Mr. Nagel and Mr. Wickersham are making arrangements to take up a four years residence here. Among the other callers at the Boardman house to-day were Senator Hopkins of Illinois, Senator Gamble of South Dakota, Representative Brownlow of Tennessee and Senator Scott of West Virginia.

Senator Hopkins told Mr. Taft that Gov. Deneen of Illinois is coming on to Washington for the inauguration and that he is to be bined by both Senator Cullom and himself. Deneen is after Hopkins's seat in the Senate, and Mr. Hopkins wouldn't be averse to accepting a helping hand from the new President. Whether the Illinois Senator asked for assistance at to-day's conference is not known. Mr. Taft has adopted a policy of non-interference in State contests, which he has tried to maintain up to this time.

The most striking thing about Senator Scott's visit was the changed appearance of his whiskers. Mr. Taft noted this and spoke to the Senator about it. The whiskers have been cut down on the sides into sort of a trimmed hedge effect. Instead of rounding out over the chin they come to a point and look fine.

Mr. Taft got some amusement yesterday out of President Roosevelt's suggestion that a "buncombe club" would succeed the "Annapolis Club" in his new Administration. The President greeted Mr. Taft at the White House yesterday with a reference to this possibility. He said that he had observed that Mr. Taft had abolished the "Annapolis Club" and substituted the "Buncombe Club." This was a reference to Mr. Taft's remark that a speech made by Representative Rainey of Illinois about the Panama Canal was "buncombe."

Mr. Taft admitted to-day that he had an "itching" to go up to the Capitol and visit the House and Senate. He had many friends there that he would like to see, he said. On second thought, though, the President-elect realized that, though, he would not be exactly proper for him to do this. When somebody suggested that there was a President's room up in the Capitol that wasn't being used, he shook his head and said it would not be right for him to use it yet.

In the afternoon Mr. Taft took a walk and to-night he and Mrs. Taft were guests of honor at a dinner given at the New Willard by the members of the party which accompanied Mr. Taft to the Orient in 1906. The dinner was served in the large ballroom and the tables were laid in the form of the letters spelling the word "Taft." The hollows forming the letters on the inside of the table were filled with masses of palms and ferns. Festoons of Japanese lanterns and Southern samizung hung from one corner of the room to the other. A huge painting of the sacred mountain of Japan, Fujiyama, filled the end of the room, and at the other end was a Japanese tea house. A Japanese pagoda stood at one end of the room filled with greens and lanterns. The table was decorated with low mounds of Killarney roses and white lilies forming a harmony of pink, green and white. Inverted Japanese umbrellas formed screens over the lights on the sides of the room. The orchestra was stationed behind a screen of palms and tall evergreens.

The party presented the President-elect with a gold watch and Mrs. Taft with a diamond lavallière as souvenirs of the "third voyage of the Philippines party," the second being the dinner given by Representative McKinley several years ago in the same place. Another souvenir for the Tafts was a hand painted pamphlet of green Japanese vellum, with a dwarf Japanese pine on the cover tied with yellow ribbons, which were sealed and the face of the President-elect impressed upon the seal. On the first page was the inscription "as great as the age of a Japanese dwarf pine is the friendship of those whose sign," and on the pages following were the signatures of the guests, numbering eighty and including the three brides and bridegrooms whose romances were begun on this trip—Representative and Mrs. Nicholas Longworth, Representative and Mrs. Bourke Cockran and Representative and Mrs. Swager Sherry, all of whom made the journey unmarried and unmarried.

Senator Scott was toastmaster at the banquet. Mr. Taft as he got to his feet was greeted by a chorus of "banzais." The President-elect declared that he would always enjoy these reminders of the 1905 trip. His pleasure, however, was tempered with the regret that the trip could never be repeated. Circumstances would not permit. "We had four or five honeymoons on that trip," said Mr. Taft, "and we can't very well live them over again."

Mr. Taft spoke with appreciation of the good time that the party had in Japan and of the warm hospitality that was accorded to them. Mr. Taft hoped that the party would continue to have reunions. "I hope," he added, "that this organization will bear the same relation to the next administration as the Rough Riders bear to the present administration."